

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I have already learned at least one thing (and many others, if I think about it) from taking on the editorship of this journal. And that is, you have to plan far ahead. It is early February as I write this, but I found myself thinking about future events that need discussing in our first edition for 2012. One problem with a quarterly publication is that it can only inform the reader once every three months. This makes it less work for yours truly, but limits its capability to impart timely information.

Our study unit has two important matters that we must consider in this issue. One item is our annual membership dues. The bottom of this page shows the rates. We are also enclosing a dues notice form that you can use to submit your payment. Our Secretary informs me that some members have already sent in their dues for this year, for which we thank them. Last year we had several members mistakenly pay twice because we put dues notices in two issues. We applied some of those double payments to the dues for this year. If you are unsure of your payment status, the mailing label should have a date indicating the year for which you are paid up. If you receive only the on-line edition and have a question about your status, please contact the Secretary.

The second item for consideration is our annual election of study unit officers. The election will take place this year at the annual National Topical Stamp Show scheduled to be held 22-24 June 2012, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The show press release on page 16 describes some of the planned activities. We will hold the Biology Unit meeting at the NTSS on Saturday morning. I highly encourage all members to attend. In the meantime, the unit is soliciting your nominations for any of the officer or director positions. We currently have a vacant position at Vice-President. All current officers and directors have indicated that they will be running again. We encourage all members who wish to make any additional nominations to contact the Secretary (chris-dahle@uiowa.edu).

In the current edition, we have several checklists for new issues. Several flocks of birds have arrived starting on page 19. Our journal covers most fields of biology, but there is one area where we currently fall short and that is Herpetology—the study of reptiles and amphibians. I am convinced that we have among our members several interested in this topic and surely someone is compiling listings of these issues for their own use. I invite that person to share their effort with others in this publication. I promise to make the process as painless as possible. I will take care of all the formatting and text arrangement. All I need is the source data. Please contact me and we will get you started in the next edition.

I invite readers to send me their suggestions for improvement on any aspect of the journal. See the inside cover for contact information. And, as I mentioned previously, I am always looking for articles, letters, and other input of interest to the readers for inclusion in future editions.

Jack Congrove

DUES RATES (US\$)

Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
Half page insertion	\$10
Quarter page insertion	\$5

Please make checks payable to the Biology Unit of ATA and mail with details to:
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